



# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH HARBOR COMMISSION AGENDA

Wednesday, July 8, 2026 - 5:00 PM

**Harbor Commission Members:**

**Marie Marston, Vice Chair**  
**Steve Scully, Secretary**  
**Sabrina Kerr, Commissioner**  
**Thom McElory, Commissioner**  
**Bob Miller, Commissioner**  
**Rudy Svrcek, Commissioner**  
**Gary Williams, Commissioner**

**Staff Members:**

**Paul Blank, Harbormaster**  
**Cynthia Shintaku, Management Analyst**

The Harbor Commission meeting is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. Among other things, the Brown Act requires that the Harbor Commission agenda be posted at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of each regular meeting and that the public be allowed to comment on agenda items before the Commission and items not on the agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Harbor Commission. The Chair may limit public comments to a reasonable amount of time, generally three (3) minutes per person.

The City of Newport Beach's goal is to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, we will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact Paul Blank, Harbormaster, at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible at (949) 270-8158 or pblank@newportbeachca.gov.

Questions and comments may be submitted in writing for the Harbor Commission's consideration by sending them to harborfeedback@newportbeachca.gov. To give the Harbor Commission adequate time to review your questions and comments, please submit your written comments no later than 5 p.m. the day prior to the Harbor Commission meeting. All correspondence will be made part of the record.

**NOTICE REGARDING PRESENTATIONS REQUIRING USE OF CITY EQUIPMENT**

Any presentation requiring the use of the City of Newport Beach's equipment must be submitted to the Harbor Department 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

- 1) **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2) **ROLL CALL**
- 3) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4) **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**The Harbor Commission will Elect Officers for the 2026-27 Year**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Find this action exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and

2. Elect Chair; and
3. Elect Vice Chair; and
4. Elect Secretary.

5) **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Public comments are invited on agenda items. Speakers must limit comments to three (3) minutes. Before speaking, we invite, but do not require, you to state your name for the record. The Harbor Commission has the discretion to extend or shorten the speakers' time limit on agenda items, provided the time limit adjustment is applied equally to all speakers. As a courtesy, please turn cell phones off or set them in the silent mode.*

6) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

6.1) **Draft minutes of the June 10, 2026 Harbor Commission Regular Meeting**

[6.10.2026 Draft Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes](#)

[6.10.2026 Draft Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes Draft- Secretary Scully](#)

7) **CURRENT BUSINESS**

7.1) **Progress Update - Small Vessel Rental Customer Safety Program: City-Produced Safety Video, Knowledge Quiz, and Certification Process**

Commissioner Scully will provide the Harbor Commission with an update on significant progress made toward improving safety for single-day small vessel rental customers operating in Newport Harbor. Since the Commission's initial policy discussion in September 2025 and the follow-up discussion in March 2026, the Newport Harbor Safety Committee has advanced the development of a City-produced safety video, an associated knowledge quiz, and a certification process. This report introduces that update and invites Commission discussion regarding the potential adoption of these tools as a strong suggestion or formal requirement for all small vessel rental customers on Newport Harbor.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
2. Receive and file; or
3. Provide direction to staff and/or the Newport Harbor Safety Committee regarding the implementation of the City-produced safety video, knowledge quiz, and certification process as a strong suggestion or potential

requirement for all single-day small vessel rental concession operators and their customers in Newport Harbor.

[Staff Report - Discussion of Potential Safety Requirements for Small Vessel Rental Customers](#)

[Attachment A - Newport Harbor Safety Video and Quiz Link and Quiz Questions](#)

[Attachment B - Newport Harbor Safety Certificate of Completion](#)

## 7.2) Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Several ad hoc committees have been established to address short term projects outside of the Harbor Commission objectives. This is the time the ad hoc committees will provide an update on their projects.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Find this action exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
2. Receive and file.

[Staff Report](#)

## 7.3) Harbor Commission 2026 Objectives

Each ad hoc committee studying their respective Objective within the Commission's 2026 Objectives, will provide a progress update.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Find this action exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
2. Receive and file.

[Staff Report](#)

[Harbor Commission 2026 Objectives](#)

**7.4) Harbormaster Update-June 2026 Activities**

June 2026 was a busy and productive month for the Harbor Department, marked by significant activity across all three pillars of our mission: keeping Newport Harbor clean, safe, and well-enjoyed. The Department assumed management responsibility for slips and garages at Balboa Yacht Basin (BYB), a milestone transition that is already yielding measurable improvements in service delivery and facility conditions. Water quality remained a priority, with staff responding to multiple spill reports, advancing the oyster garden program, and celebrating an anecdotal but encouraging sign of ecological health - an adolescent octopus photographed swimming at Marina Park. On the safety front, a significant enforcement action resulted in the arrest of an unpermitted charter operator on an outstanding warrant, and staff conducted numerous rescues, assists, and educational interventions throughout the month. The "Well-Enjoyed" category reflects a harbor humming with summer activity, with staff going above and beyond to assist boaters, enforce public dock rules, and ensure commercial operators comply with Marine Activities Permit (MAP) requirements.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
2. Receive and file.

[Staff Report](#)

[Attachment A - Harbor Department Statistics Infographic](#)

**8) MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION**

*A motion to reconsider any action taken by the Harbor Commission must be made at the same meeting or the subsequent meeting at which the action was taken and may only be made by one of the Harbor Commission members who voted with the prevailing side.*

**9) COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-DISCUSSION ITEMS)****10) MATTERS WHICH COMMISSIONERS WOULD LIKE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION OR REPORT (NON-DISCUSSION ITEMS)****11) DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026 AT 5 P.M.****12) ADJOURNMENT**